

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/827,283

Examiner

Nga B. Nguyen

Applicant(s)

HALLIHAN, DANIEL

Art Unit

3692

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the Amendment filed on October 15, 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 26-51.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
  1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |                                                                                                            |                                                                                       |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                     |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____    | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                              |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance  |
|                                                                                                            | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____                                               |

### DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is the answer to the Amendment filed on October 15, 2007, which paper has been placed of record in the file.
2. Claims **26-51** are pending in this application.

#### ***Allowable Subject Matter/Reasons for Allowance***

3. Claims **26, 30** and **41** are allowed over the prior arts cited records.

The closest prior arts are:

1) Kahn (US 6,401,079) discloses a complete, Web-based system that "combines the flexibility and functionality with a standalone payroll system with the convenience of a payroll service" (col. 11, lines 26-33). An application server coordinates and controls a variety of applications that comprise the systems' features and functionality, and communicates with a plurality of data collections (col. 11, lines 42-58). These applications are part of the complete system, and there is no teaching or suggestion that these applications are independent software applications having different data formats. Further, there is no teaching or suggestion that the system of *Kahn* can act as a single point of access for independent software applications having different data formats, or can create files in different formats that can be passed to these independent applications through distinct interfaces. Since *Kahn* teaches an overall system, there would be no motivation to include formatting modules to communicate with external and independent applications that might have different formats. The embodiment of claim 26 presents a single point of access that allows a single database

to be used with different applications that require different data formats. This is very different from the overall system of *Kahn*.

2) Swart (US 6,347,306). *Swart* does not make up for the deficiencies in *Kahn*. *Swart* teaches the use of a universal format understandable by payroll processing systems (col. 6, lines 41-53). There is no teaching or suggestion of converting data to a format that is specific to an independent application, or converting data to a format that is specific to an accounts payable system. There also is no teaching or suggestion of converting data to specific formats for separate, independent applications, particularly applications of different types. The use of a single, universal format that will work with a number of payroll applications is not the same as the translation of data into a number of different formats that are each specific to the independent application receiving the data, particularly where those applications are of different types.

Therefore, it is clear from the description of *Kahn*'s and *Swart*'s inventions that the prior arts do not considered the possibility of: storing the time data received from the program module and the expense data received from the program module in a central time and expenses database, the time and expenses database being a single access point for a plurality of independent software applications; creating a first file of a first format compatible with a payroll system, the first file including the time data from the time and expenses database, and transferring the first file to the payroll system using a first interface, the payroll system including a payroll software application configured to process the time data; creating a second file of a second format compatible with an

accounts payable software application, the second file including the expense data from the time and expenses database, and transferring the second file to the accounts payable system using a second interface, the accounts payable system including an accounts payable software application configured to process the expense data, as included in claims 26, 30 and 41.

4. Claims (27-29, 50, 51), (31-40) and (42-48), are allowed because they are dependent claims of the allowable independent claims 26, 30 and 41 above, in that order.

#### **Conclusion**

5. Claims **26-51** are allowed.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to examiner Nga B. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-6796. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:00AM-5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kambiz Abdi can be reached on (571) 272-6702.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-3600.

7. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
P.O. Box 1450

Application/Control Number:  
09/827,283  
Art Unit: 3692

Page 5

Alexandria VA, 22131-1450

Or faxed to:

(571) 273-8300 (for formal communication intended for entry),

or

(571) 273-6796 (for informal or draft communication, please label

"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT").

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Knox Building, 501 Dulany  
Street, Alexandria, VA, First Floor (Receptionist).



NGA NGUYEN  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

December 7, 2007